Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was this Cheeku serving as a private servant under the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, before he became the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes. That is the reason why I entertained him.

President.—There is no objection to entertain servants as peons.

The pumping operations near Polakkal in the Trichur Taluk.

431. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether there was pumping operations going on at the instance of the Government near Polakkal in the Trichur Taluk in connection with cultivation;

(2) whether it was peremptorily stopped owing to the mistakes of some subordinate of the D. P. W. which led to the escape of most of the water to the sea without the knowledge of the operators;

(3) whether the loss on that account would have come to about Rs. 20,000 or more;

(4) whether it is possible to recover the amount from those concerned, and, if so, any attempts have been made in that direction, together with the progress thereat?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—

(1) Yes.

(2) No.

(3) and (4). These questions do not arise in view of the answer to (2) above.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Did any quantity of water escape to the sea?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—From where?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—From the Polakkal storage.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Not to my knowledge. No water escaped from the Polakkal storage.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—Evaporated and then fell as rain into the sea!

President.—That is a natural process.

The assault on a patient by a Medical Officer.

432. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) has the attention of the Government been drawn to the para under 'Trichur' in the issue of *the Lokaprakasam*, dated 24th January 1927, regarding the kicking of a man who resorted

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to the Hospital by a medical subordinate attached to the out-patients' ward in the Civil Hospital at Trichur;

(b) will the Government be pleased to state if they have received any petition in regard to it, and, if so, the name of the Medical Officer concerned;

(c) will the Government be pleased to state whether there has been any complaint against the said Medical Officer, whether any have been recorded by his immediate superiors, and whether he has served in any other station, and, if so, whether there had been complaints against him there also ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(a) The article has been perused.

(b) Yes. Assistant Surgeon Mr C. L. Joseph.

(c) Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What was the charge referred to in the petition ?

President.—The question is put to you, Dr. Verghese.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes, Sir.

President.—Is this a supplementary question ? Why did you not put it then as a substantial question ?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—They have received a petition. What is the charge contained in the petition ?

President.—We have to look into the petition to answer this. This is a matter which does not arise from the answer. If a supplementary question arises from the answer, I can understand it. This is a main question which you could have put along with the other questions.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What is the nature of the complaint referred to in the petition ?

President.—You could have put the question whether there has been any complaint, and if so, what the complaint was. That does not arise from the answer now given.

433. **Dr. A. R. Menon.**—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that one of the Assistant Surgeons attached to the Trichur Hospital assaulted lately a patient attending the above hospital ;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state:—

i. whether the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer received any communication about the occurrence from the officer in charge of the institution;

ii. what disciplinary action has been taken against the officer concerned;

(c) whether they will be pleased to place on the table all the correspondence relating to this incident ?

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